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PRC No. DD/I-135-56

28 DEC 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Review Committee

THROUGH : Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT : Proposed Extension of External Research Project

REFERENCES : (a) Staff study to Project Review Committee dated 25 February 1955, Subject: Proposed External Research Project  
(b) Staff study to Project Review Committee dated 14 June 1955, Subject: Proposed Extension of External Research Project  
(c) Memorandum to Contract Personnel Division dated 26 September 1955, Subject: Contract Renewal - [REDACTED] 25X1A  
(Memorandum conurred in by ODD/I)  
(d) Personal Service Contract with [REDACTED] dated 14 March 1955, as amended 25X1A

1. PROBLEM:

To obtain approval for the Office of Research and Reports to extend, for a period of six months, an external research project relating to agricultural production and utilization in Communist China.

2. DISCUSSION:

a. An external research project on the Acreage, Production, and Utilization of Cotton in Communist China (References (a) and (b)) was undertaken by [REDACTED] during the period 1 March 1955 through 30 September 1955 at a cost of \$5,400. This project was initially planned within very confining limits and has since been expanded to include analysis of the overall agricultural situation in Communist China. In order for [REDACTED] to continue work in this important area, a contract extension through 31 December 1955 was effected (Reference (c)).

b. The research undertaken by [REDACTED], a recognized authority on Chinese agriculture, has been reviewed and evaluated by ORR and found to be of high quality. During the period 1 March 1955 through the present, [REDACTED] has provided valuable data on the acreage, production, and utilization of cotton in Communist China as well as information on cooperative farming developments, fertilizer requirements, estimates of food production required to fulfill ration commitments as compared with actual food production, livestock production in relation to crop trends, and other subjects of vital interest to the ORR agricultural research program as it relates to Communist China.

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c. During the past year the Office of the Council General in Hong Kong, China has not had the services of a full-time agricultural reporting officer. This situation has resulted in a notable decrease in the agricultural information heretofore available from that source. While [redacted] reporting efforts in the field of Chinese agriculture are not a complete substitute for field reports, much of his work has been addressed to an analysis of available information, such as press reports, announced Chinese Communist plans, and other similar materials. It is believed that the Council General in Hong Kong plans to reinstate full time agricultural reporting services late in 1956. Until this time, it would be very desirable to continue [redacted] services in an effort to at least partially fill the gap created through the absence of field reporting services from Hong Kong.

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d. Under the current broad terms of reference for [redacted] research, it will be impossible for him to provide, prior to termination of his existing personal service contract (Reference (d)), complete analysis of source material presently available to him. An extension of this contract would permit [redacted] to continue his present research which significantly supplements the research capabilities of the Agriculture Branch in ORR. The proposed contract would permit further utilization of his unique knowledge of Communist Chinese agriculture in developing agricultural production and utilization estimates for the country as a whole, developing estimates of production by agricultural regions, and plotting China's agricultural growth potential.

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3. CONCLUSION:

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Partial fulfillment of ORR's requirements for adequate agricultural reporting on Communist China can be effected through continued use of [redacted] efforts in this field.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That ORR be granted approval to extend [redacted] contract for a period of six months through 30 June 1956 at an estimated cost of \$5,400 for the purpose as explained above with the understanding that a reevaluation will be made at that time to determine if conditions warrant a further extension. Funds are available for this purpose within the current ORR allocation in Allotment Account 6-5701-10.

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Acting Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

APPROVED:

*12/ Robert Conroy, Jr.*

Deputy Director/Intelligence

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*29 Dec 55*  
Date

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